

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

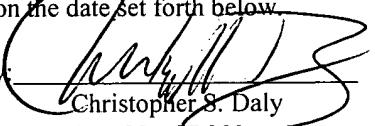
Application No. : 09/837,773 Confirmation No.: 9083  
Applicant : David M. Pepper et al.  
Filed : April 18, 2001  
T.C./A.U. : 2881  
Examiner : Bernard E. Souw  
  
Docket No. : RTN-154PUS  
Customer No. : 022494

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AMENDMENT

MS AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Final Official Action dated March 26, 2004, please amend the above-identified patent application as follows:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 7 of this paper.